

## The students of Pioneer Springs publish student-authored books in beloved tradition



Spring is in the air at Pioneer Springs, which means it's Bare Book season. Each school year, elementary students write and publish their very own books in their Bare Books projects. As they write their Bare Books, students learn about the writing process, including developing ideas, creating outlines, writing drafts, revising, and editing. By illustrating their stories, students not only express their creativity, they also explore the ways that words and pictures work together to create engaging stories. When the Bare Books are complete, classes invite families to campus for an Author's Tea to celebrate students' writing. Families bring refreshments, and classes gather outdoors to read students' books and discuss the writing process. If you have an elementary student, be on the lookout for information about your student's Author's Teas in class newsletters this week. And be sure to your student about what they are writing about, and how their books are coming along!

### IMPORTANT DATES & ITEMS TO NOTE

- 1-5 April: **SPRING BREAK**
- 8 April: Staff workday - **NO SCHOOL** for students
- 8 April: Total Eclipse
- 10-12 April: 9th grade field trip to Nantahala
- 13 April: Toss 'n Sauce
- 27 April: ArtSpring!
- Register here for Summer Camps!
- Academic & Events Calendar
- Fridays at 10 AM: Admin Open Office Hours

## Come play with us at Toss 'n Sauce on April 13!



Did you know that Mr. Jose is a cornhole shark, and that Ms. Whitney honed her athletic skills as a student athlete tennis player in college? Compete with these and other staff athletes at our annual Toss 'n Sauce Tournament (click here for tournament tickets, raffle entries, and more). Want to join the fun—including yard games, face painting, and fairy hair—but don't want to compete? Spectators can attend for free! Unable to join us? You can still enter our raffles for prizes including PSCS honey, a family photo session, and gift cards to PSCS owned businesses. All proceeds will support the expansion of our athletic fields. You can help make this event a success by spreading the word—share this event with three significant adults in your student's life, and encourage them to support the magic of Pioneer Springs. If we can raise just \$15 per student, we will exceed our goal!

## Pioneer Springs has a bus!

Pioneer Springs has fulfilled a long-time dream and acquired a minibus. The shuttle-style bus seats 24 and is equipped with both storage and seatbelts for all riders. The bus is the first of an anticipated fleet of 2 that we will use for field trips and other community excursions.

Now we just need names for our new and future buses. Submit bus name suggestions [here](#). We will collect name ideas through Friday, March 29. After Spring Break, we will compile the best name ideas and share them for a community vote!



Ms. Sarah and Ms. Allie's class with our new bus.

## Celebrate the arts with us at ArtSpring!, Saturday, April 27



Not only do the arts allow for creative expression, the arts also give us windows into other people's experiences, and bring communities together. Because the arts sustain creativity, empathy, and community, they are an important part of the curriculum at Pioneer Springs. Join us on Saturday, April 27 as we celebrate the arts at ArtSpring! Students will share performances that they have been creating in drama, dance, and music. The community will join in performance art projects created by Ms. Susan, and see a display by Mr. Randolph's high school ceramics class. We can't wait to see you there! Questions or interested in volunteering? Email Heidi Magi ([heidim@pioneersprings.org](mailto:heidim@pioneersprings.org)).

## Pioneer Springs Butterfly Garden



The Pioneer Springs high school horticulture classes have been hard at work on their new project for the early elementary schoolers' garden at the Davis House. The plan is to have a completely student-built pollinator garden in the shape of a butterfly. The students, with the guidance of their fantastic horticulture teacher Corey Sperling, will use their newfound skills and the expertise they learned in class to apply in real life to build a beautiful garden for all of the students on campus to enjoy. They will do this by using native flowers and plants that will bloom at a specific time to create a colorful butterfly shaped garden all year round. The plants and seeds have been supplied by two different grants that Mr. Corey received. The garden may look a little barren at the moment, but come fall and spring it will be filled with life. This garden project is a great example of how high school students can take a leadership role and support their peers in lower grades. It fulfills the mission of Pioneer Springs and truly makes it a community.

## Come learn and play at one of our summer camps!

Camps at Pioneer Springs are the perfect way for to spend the summer! Our unique camp themes, offered on our nature-based, historically-rich, 12-acre campus create memorable, fun days. Each session includes engaging, active content as well as a full green hour for lunch and outdoor exploration. **Register [here!](#)**

Camps include:

- Camp PreOneer

For rising Kinder & 1st graders

Campers explore arts, science, nature, crafts and play in this daily 3 hour camp.

9-12pm Weeks of July 22nd and July 29th

- Edventures

For rising 1st-6th grades

Be a Traveling Artist for a week, explore the Science of Superpowers, take a ride at Flight Camp, or explore the world through the Mind of Da Vinci. Offered each week between June 10th and July 29th.

- Just Do It! Series

For rising 1st-6th graders

Build it, Cook it, Game it, Escape It...just do it!

Offered each week between June 10th and July 29th



---

## Sibshops



Sibshops are opportunities for siblings of children with health, mental health, or developmental needs to get support and education within a safe, supportive, and fun environment. The camp intersperses information and discussion activities with games, cooking, craft activities, special guests, and so much more.

Grades 3-8

Week of: June 10-14th

Time: 9:00-1:00 pm

Facilitator: Gail Faithful

Contact information: [gail.faithful@gmail.com](mailto:gail.faithful@gmail.com)

Join Gail for an information session for families to learn more about Sibshops on Friday, April 19, from 7:00-8:00 pm.

Google Meet Link: <https://meet.google.com/umk-rygr-kgy>

## Senior spotlight

Written by, Nile Johnson, Edited by Sophie Slimick, 11th grade Journalism student

“Learning is one thing the mind never exhausts, never fears never regrets” - Leonardo Da Vinci

Shaniyah Smith is a very busy senior at Pioneer Springs. When she is not in class, she is working in the kitchen at Chick-fil-A packaging nuggets, making salads, wraps, and more. However, outside of work, you will usually find Shaniyah dancing, singing and coloring. In the near future, Shaniyah will be even busier attending CPCC, for a total of two years, before switching to a four year college in order to receive her degree. She is hoping to pursue a career in ASL or photography combined with traveling. “I really want to take pictures of nature and beautiful scenery”. Shaniyah’s special Pioneer Springs memory was from a 10th grade backpacking trip. She remembers the amazing views that may have inspired her love of photographing nature. Shaniyah says that this trip taught her to be grateful for the things she has at home and appreciate connecting with nature. Her advice to other up and coming PSCS students is: “Stop caring what other people think about you. Just be yourself and that is enough!!”



---

## Total Solar Eclipse - April 8th, by Jade Colburn, 10th grade Journalism student



Keep your chin up, literally! On April 8th, a total solar eclipse will cross North America, cutting through Mexico, the United States, and Canada. A solar eclipse is when the Moon passes between the Sun and Earth. This specific positioning blocks the sun’s rays and casts a shadow on Earth, making the sky very dark and creating (what appears to be) a ring of light in the sky! What makes this year’s eclipse special is it is predicted to be the last total solar eclipse visible from the United States until the year 2044. Unfortunately, citizens positioned in Charlotte will not be able to witness the total phase of the eclipse; nevertheless, it can still be observed as a partial eclipse from that area.

**Safety Warning:** Make sure when observing the total solar eclipse you are equipped with the proper safety equipment. Looking at the eclipse directly or through a camera lens for an extended period can cause severe damage to your vision. Viewers are advised to wear eclipse glasses or a handheld solar viewer.

# Classroom Happenings

On Wednesday, Ms. Jess and Ms. Meghan welcomed Yoshi, a red-eyed crocodile skink, as 5th grade's very spoilt class pet. A special thank you goes to Mr. Corey, our CIA Nature Studies teacher, who located the source of this sweet skink, donated plants, materials, and offered invaluable knowledge to help provide an adequate environment for Yoshi.



# Classroom Happenings



Another tiger swallowtail visited the Hive this week!

**Ms. Susan is in need of clean, plastic recyclables!** Please drop off at the front office of the castle.



Ms. Leslie's students exploring building and building and writing.

**[Click here](#)** for a handy chart that helps you figure out who to contact when you have a question.